

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested.

Claims 19, 20, 26, 29, 35, 37 and 38 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. New claims 43 and 44 have been added.

Claim 42 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 19-22, 24-31 and 33-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. Specifically, the rejections relate to the use of the terms “medium content key” and “license content key.”

Independent claims 28 and 42 have been amended so as to address the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, by more clearly defining the terms “medium content key” and “license content key.” That is, the “medium content key” is defined as being cryptographically calculated using a medium key. Support for this can be found in the original specification at Figure 11, step S1103 and page 25, line 14 – page 26, line 1. Also, the “license content key” is defined as being cryptographically calculated using the medium content key and rights information acquired from an external license server. Support for this can be found in the original specification at Figure 11, step S1106. As a result, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, is respectfully requested.

Claims 19-22, 24-31 and 33-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sims III (US 2002/0016919) in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA) and Oshima (US 7,191,154).

In order to expedite the prosecution of this application, allowable apparatus claim 42 has been amended into independent form by including therein the limitations of its base claim and intervening claims. Claims 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 39 and 40 have been amended so as to either directly or indirectly depend from claim 42. Further, method claim 28 has been amended into independent form in a manner similar to claim 42. As a result, claim 28 is also allowable. Also, claims 30, 31, 33, 34 and 36 and new claims 43 and 44, which are similar to claims 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 39 and 40, respectively, either directly or indirectly depend from claim 28. As a result, the above rejection is rendered moot.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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